



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: June 19, 2003

Comment Period Ends: August 2, 2003

File Number: 200202751

In Reply Refer To: Cori M. Rose

Or by e-mail: cori.m.rose@usace.army.mil

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MARICULTURE UNLIMITED, 11 SURF ROAD, WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

has requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act to install and maintain at total of 225 submerged longlines for the rearing of eastern oysters at three state administered shellfish lease areas in the nearshore coastal environment of Long Island Sound. The proposed shellfish rearing areas will encompass a total area of 522.4 acres off of the shoreline of Milford and Westport, Connecticut.

Site 1a/1b - Westport CT

The 366.8-acre rearing area at Lease 602 and 612 is located to the northeast of Cockenoe Reef, southeast of the Saugatuck River entrance, and north of Georges Rock in 24 to 32 feet of water at an orientation of 317° (see attached coordinates). At this site, approximately one hundred sixty-nine 325 foot long longlines, each suspending 50 cage units (4.6' high modules) for the rearing of oysters, is proposed to be submerged 10 feet below the water surface, kept afloat between large flotation buoys and anchored by 4 terminal helix-style anchors and 6 intermediately placed 200 pound mushroom anchors. Compensation buoys will be used to keep the longline off of the bottom. Tidal currents at the site run 272 ° on a flood tide, and 84° on an ebb tide. Predicted maximum current velocities for the site are 1.2 knot on a flood tide, and 1.88 knot on an ebb tide.

Site 2 - Milford CT

The 155.5 acre rearing area at Lease 390 is located offshore of Cedar Beach and Laurel Beach in water depths of between 15 and 22 feet at an orientation of 205° (see attached coordinates). At this lease, approximately fifty-six 325 foot long longlines, each suspending 50 cage units (4.6' high modules) for the rearing of oysters, is proposed to be submerged 8 feet below the water surface, kept afloat between large flotation buoys and anchored by 4 terminal helix-style anchors and 6 intermediately placed 200 pound mushroom anchors. Compensation buoys will be used to keep the longline off of the bottom. Tidal currents at the site run 250 ° on a flood tide, and 70° on an ebb tide. Predicted maximum current velocities for the site are 0.8 knot on a flood tide, and 1.1 knot on an ebb tide.

By this notice we are announcing a public hearing and requesting comments in writing, or orally at the hearing, on this application. The purpose of the hearing is to acquire information that will be considered in evaluating the permit application.

The public hearing will be held on July 23, 2003 at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium, in Milford, Connecticut. There will be an applicant sponsored

information/poster session from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Registration for oral comment will begin at 6:00 pm. The hearing will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. The applicant will provide a brief presentation of the scope of the proposed project activity at the beginning of the hearing. **The Veterans Memorial Auditorium is located at Parsons Government Center, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT and is accessible from 5:00 p.m.**

Deaf and hearing impaired persons wishing to attend this Public Hearing, and requiring an interpreter, may make arrangements by contacting the Public Affairs Office at (978) 318-8237 at least ten working days prior to the Public Hearing.

Subsequent to the hearing the transcript will be available for review on our web page and/or at our office, or may be purchased directly from the reporter. A copy of our final decision document, including the environmental assessment will be available upon request. Any person shall be able to submit oral or written statements concerning the subject matter of the hearing, to call witnesses who may present oral or written statements, and to present recommendations as to an appropriate decision. Any person may present written statements for the hearing record prior to the time of the hearing record is closed to public submissions, and may present proposed findings and recommendations.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity in the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which may reasonably accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. All comments received in response to this notice or as part of the hearing record will be considered, in addition to those comments received on the original Public Notice. Consequently, if you have already submitted comments, there is no need to resubmit them as part of this proceeding.

WRITTEN STATEMENTS MAY BE MAILED TO: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, ATTN: Ms. Cori Rose, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751. Comments must be received by August 2, 2003. If you have any questions, please contact Cori M. Rose at (978) 318-8306 or use our toll free number (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367 if calling within Massachusetts.

ISSUANCE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE SERVES AS NOTIFICATION TO THE PUBLIC THAT THE CONNECTICUT DEP WILL REVIEW THIS PROPOSAL FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE STATE'S FEDERALLY APPROVED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) hereby gives notice it has received from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) a request for concurrence with a determination of consistency with the enforceable policies of Connecticut's federally-approved Coastal Management Program pursuant to section 307(c)(1) of the Federal Coastal

Zone Management Act regarding a proposal by Mariculture Unlimited, LLC to conduct aquaculture activities as discussed in detail, below. Although no hearing is required by law to be held for its concurrence determination, the DEP will be in attendance at this Public Hearing and will receive comments relative to the request received. The DEP proceeding is not a contested case.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 930.61, all interested parties are also invited to express their views on the State of Connecticut Coastal Zone Management consistency review at the above referenced hearing or in writing. Written comments must be submitted to the Department no later than August 2, 2003. Comments regarding this notice should be directed to: Peter Francis, CT Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Long Island Sound Programs, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127 or by email at: peter.francis@po.state.ct.us.

Robert J. DeSista
Chief, Permits & Evaluation
Regulatory Division